

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA  
September 13, 2005

The special meeting of the Westminster Mayor and City Council/ Redevelopment Agency scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2005, in the East/West Rooms of the Community Services Building, 8200 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, California, was adjourned to 7:00 p.m. at the same location, due to lack of a quorum.

The adjourned regular meeting of the Westminster Mayor and City Council/ Redevelopment Agency convened in the East/West Rooms of the Community Services Building, 8200 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, California.

**7:00 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor/Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**PRESENT:** RICE, PARIS, FRY, MARSH

**ABSENT:** QUACH

**SALUTE TO FLAG:** Mayor Pro Tem Paris

**1. Discussion of Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA's) proposed expansion to the I-405.**

Mayor Rice announced the upcoming OCTA meetings regarding OCTA's proposed I-405 expansion will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> with the Regional Planning & Highways Committee and October 14<sup>th</sup> with the Board of Directors, at which time they are to take a vote on a plan of action for the I-405 proposed expansion. She asked that people attend the meetings and show their support. She thanked Diana Carey, Chairman of the ad hoc committee, for the outstanding work she has done.

Mayor Rice stated that with Council's permission, she wished to proceed with reports on the proposed project before hearing oral comments.

**A motion was made by Councilman Marsh**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paris, and carried by 4-0 vote (Quach-absent) to approve placing the Oral Communications at the end of the program.

Council Member Marsh reported that on June 22<sup>nd</sup> the I-405 Major Investment Study Policy Working Group Board Committee (known as the Policy Committee for the I-405 Project) rejected all alternatives except Alternative 4, which provides for widening only in the existing right-of-way. At that same meeting, staff was directed to evaluate the possibility of a revised Alternative 8 which was later renamed Alternative 8B. He explained the differences between Alternative 4 and Alternative 8B stating that Alternative 8B would have much more residential and business property loss than Alternative 4.

Council Member Marsh stated that no citizens speaking in favor and no written communications were received in support of Alternative 8B. Council Member Marsh listed the advantages of Alternative 4 which he is in favor of:

1. Alternative 4 takes away less than ¼ as many residences as Alternative 8B.
2. Alternative 4 takes away 1/10<sup>th</sup> as much commercial property as Alternative 8B.
3. Alternative 4 has an estimated cost of ½ of 1 billion dollars compared to 1.6 billion dollars, more than 3 times as much.
4. Because Alternative 4 is significantly less expensive, OCTA could acquire the needed funds more quickly and begin construction years earlier than Alternative 8B.
5. Because Alternative 4 involves far fewer takings by eminent domain, OCTA will have fewer delays in moving the project forward.
6. Alternate 4 provides what Orange County citizens want. They are asking for more general purpose traffic lanes, not diamond lanes designed for Bus Rapid Transit.
7. Alternate 4 would increase traffic capacity by two lanes in each direction, a 40% increase.
8. Alternate 4 is more efficient as its cost for annual vehicle person hour saved is approximately half that of Alternative 8B.

Council Member Marsh stated that Westminster is not against the proposed project but is in support of improvements on the 405 which can be accomplished without taking homes and businesses. In order to show support of Alternative 4, he urged everyone to attend the meetings on September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> at the OCTA Board Hearing Room in the City of Orange.

In regards to Measure M, Council Member Marsh stated there will be organized opposition to Measure M if OCTA is going to bulldoze Westminster homes along the 405. He urged citizens not to support Measure M until OCTA has made a commitment to support Alternative 4.

Marwan Youssef, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the homes that would be impacted by Alternative 8B.

Diana Carey, Ad hoc Committee Chairperson, thanked the ad hoc committee and all those who are supportive of their efforts. She reviewed the progress and stated that citizens need to be involved in a second round of letters supporting Alternative 4 to the County Supervisors and Art Leahy, OCTA. People need to attend the meetings and state their support. She said sample letters are available. She also asked that people sign a petition if they had not already done so, as continued support is needed.

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Vera Rippe, resident of Westminster, asked Council Member Marsh about determination of private property taking. Council Member Marsh explained the

process. He said it is only when OCTA decides what they are generally going to pursue is when a citizen will get a letter of announcement of taking, which would start the process for compensation.

Council Member Marsh introduced Supervisor Lou Correa (arrived at 7:55 p.m.).

Rose Goldman, resident of Westminster, stated there is a problem communicating the importance of being heard at City Hall to the non-English speaking neighbors.

Mayor Rice suggested providing written information in different languages. She said citizens can also view informative programs on Channel 3, and that she would pursue going on Saigon television with a Vietnamese speaking person.

In response to Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, resident of Westminster, Supervisor Correa shared his views on Measure M.

Kathy Thomas, resident of Huntington Beach, expressed concern that her parents in Huntington Beach will be affected by Alternative 4. Council Member Marsh responded that Huntington Beach staff and Council can work with OCTA.

Darrell Nolte reported on the OCTA Board meeting held September 12<sup>th</sup>. He said the chart developed by OCTA that show the benefits of Alternatives 8 and 8B are only calculated for the noncongestive times on the freeway.

Gary Blackmore, resident of Westminster, spoke regarding the decline of enthusiasm and expressed his concern about motivating people to show support.

Etta Eddy Tash, resident of Westminster, stated she attended the meeting to be able to understand how the proposals will affect her neighborhood.

Alan Roberts, resident of Westminster, stated that he does not see the advantage of bus lanes they are only on the I-405.

Earlene Whittington, resident of Westminster, commented if the government is not stopped from taking the homes, it will be like Los Angeles losing Chavez Ravine.

Mayor Rice urged residents to write letters to the legislators and make phone calls.

**COUNCIL ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:25 p.m. Mayor Rice adjourned the meeting.

*Christine Otto*

Christine Otto, Deputy City Clerk/  
Deputy Agency Secretary